

Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

Herewith I present to you my Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1940.

This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 2314 of the Ministry of Health, which states that owing to disorganisation caused by the war, only interim reports are required containing essential matters.

This report is, therefore, drawn up on those lines.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area of the Hemsworth Urban District Council, consists as formerly of 4,163 acres, comprising the townships of Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam.

As the Hemsworth Urban District is a neutral area, there has been no evacuation of the population, or reception of evacuees and consequently the resident population is not affected.

This according to the Registrar General's estimation is :-

12,150.

The average population appropriate to the calculation of death rate is 12,150.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1940 according to the Rate Book is 3097.

The Rateable Value is £51,578 and the sum represented by a penny rate equals £199.

The chief industry in the area is Coal Mining and its allied trades, the remaining portion of the district being devoted to agriculture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	137.	121.	258.
Illegitimate.	8.	3.	11.
Still Births.	8.	5.	13.
(of which 1 male was illegitimate)			

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1940 - 22.1

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total.
	83.	77.	160.

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population - 13.1

Deaths from puerperal causes -

Puerperal Sepsis - 0.
Other puerperal causes 0.

	M.	F.
Death of infants under 1 year of age = 19	8.	11.
Legitimate	17	10.
Illegitimate	2	1.

Death rate of Infants per 1,000 live births - 70.6
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1000 live births 65.8
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1000 live births 181.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16.
" " Measles " "	0.
" " Whooping Cough "	0.
" " Diarrhœa (under 2 yrs.)	0.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year to receive or require comment.

The total number of deaths during the year from all causes was 160 and the causes of death were as follows :-

	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	3
Diphtheria.	2	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	7	2
Influenza.	4	3
Cancer.	12	5
Cerebral hæmorrhage and Thrombosis.	11	8
Heart Disease.	5	9
Other circulatory diseases.	2	0
Bronchitis.	10	10
Pneumonia.	3	3
Other respiratory diseases.	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	1
Other digestive diseases.	1	3
Nephritis.	1	2
Premature Birth.	4	1
Infantile diseases.	1	2
Suicide.	-	2
Road Accidents.	2	1
Other violent causes.	3	4
All other causes.	13	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	83	77
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Developments and changes to those services provided in the area owing to the war.

1. Laboratory facilities remain the same, but with the addition that blood which may be required for transfusion purposes in case of air raids, is forwarded to the Laboratory at County Hall to be examined and grouped.
2. Ambulance facilities are adequate and consist of a public Ambulance supplied by the local authority for all cases of illness or accident. An infectious diseases ambulance supplied by the Joint Hospital Committee and the Ambulance provided by the local collieries for their own accident cases.
3. Nursing in the home remains the same as previously.
4. Treatment Centres and Clinics are also unchanged.
5. Hospitals - Public and Voluntary.

The Public Assistance Hospital which was evacuated on the outbreak of war, was taken into use again on the completion of the Emergency Hospital buildings.

In November, 1940, the Emergency Hospital was put into commission to receive Public Assistance patients from various bombed districts of London. This hospital contains 250 beds.

Voluntary Hospitals - None in area.



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Sanitary Circumstances in the area.

These are fully discussed in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector which I endorse and recommend for your consideration.

Housing.

There were no houses erected in the Hemsworth Urban District during 1940.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year.

	Notified.	Admitted to Hosp.	Deaths.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	4	4	3
Scarlett Fever.	24	24	-
Diphtheria.	155	155	5
Pneumonia.	36	-	6
Erysipelas.	12	-	-
Measles.	29	-	-
Peurperal Pyrexia.	2	2	-

It will be noted that 155 cases of Diphtheria were recorded during the year. This is the largest number ever notified since the Urban District was formed and the notifications were :-

Hemsworth	90
Kinsley	35
Fitzwilliam	30

The epidemic was not confined to any particular month but was general throughout the year and extensive enquiries were made but no common cause for this disease could be found. The ages varied from 1 year 2 months to 40 years, and all sexes and all classes of the Community were affected.

One point stands out, and that is that a very small number indeed of the persons affected had been immunised against diphtheria, and while every effort was made to obtain the sanction of parents to have their children immunised this was unavailing.

Age Periods.	TUBERCULOSIS.			
	Resp.		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 year of age	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	1
5 - 15	-	3	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	1

In conclusion I should like to thank the officials of the Council, who in addition to many other duties which have been placed upon them owing to the war, have rendered to me every assistance in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M. B. Taylor,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

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Public Health Department,

White Hall,

Hemsworth.

To the Members of the Hemsworth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1940, in accordance with circular 2314 issued by the Ministry of Health.

This year has been marked by a larger number of cases of infectious disease than has ever fallen to my lot to deal with since my appointment, and as stated in the Medical Officer of Health's Report the strictest investigations were made but no common cause could be discovered as being responsible for the outbreak of disease.

No further houses have been built in the district during the year under review and no further steps have been taken with regard to the clearance scheme which was in being at the time of the outbreak of hostilities.

During the year much work has had to be undertaken in connection with Civil Defence, and this, together with the fact that I am at the present time without an Assistant has somewhat restricted the routine work of the Department.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The water supply has been satisfactory during the year and there has been no lack of supply and the quality has been up to its pre-war standard. Samples of the water are taken by the staff of the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee to ensure that the water supply is both chemically and bacteriologically pure.

Closet Accommodation.

One additional W.C. has been provided for a dwelling house during the year and with this exception the position is as at the end of 1939. The major number of the privies shewn on the following tabulation are those in connection with the property which will eventually be closed or are in such a position that conversion is not possible.

The number of privies in your area are as follows :-

Privies.	50.
Pail and Tub Closets.	6.
Waste water closets.	6.
Water closets.	3038.

Public Cleansing.

The public cleansing is carried out by the staff engaged by the local authority, and the dustbins are emptied weekly, three motor vehicles being engaged for this purpose. The privies are emptied about each fortnight and with regard to the cesspools which are in the Urban area, these are emptied by the Council's cesspool emptier when necessary and the contents are deposited in the Council Sewer at a point near to the Hemsworth Sewage Works. The whole of the dry ashes and night soil is taken to the Council's rubbish tip where the system of controlled tipping is in operation. The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse excluding the cesspools was :- £2180.

Salvage.

In June of this year the Council inaugurated a Salvage scheme and purchased a press for baling paper. By the end of the year 45 tons of paper had been collected, baled and sold to the value of over £180. In addition unbaled tins are also collected at the Council rubbish tip and sold, as are also rags, bones, bottles and scrap iron as they become available. A collection of Aluminium was also organised and this was handed over to the Womens Voluntary Services

SECTION D.

Housing.

During the year 256 houses were inspected under the Housing Act, 1936, and of these 67 were found to be in need of further attention. These were attended to by the serving of Preliminary Notice with the exception of 3, for which Statutory Notice had to be served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and as a consequence of this the houses were made in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Difficulty was experienced in getting some of this work done owing to the shortage of labour and the difficulty in procuring building material, and as a consequence even when orders had been given for work to be carried out builders found themselves unable to do this as quickly as they would have liked owing to these reasons.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods and Milk Supply.

During the year 15 visits were paid to farms where milk is produced and generally the premises were all found to be in a satisfactory state. Where this was not so, Informal Notices served by me upon the persons concerned have been sufficient to get any work done which may have been required.

Samples of milk under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 1928 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1928, are taken by officials of the West Riding County Council and I have not received any report to the effect that these samples were not satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

Prior to the 14th January, 1940, there were 11 private slaughterhouses in your area, but on that date the Ministry of Food took over one of the slaughterhouses for use as a communal slaughterhouse and slaughtering was prohibited in the remaining 10 until further notice.

For some time the whole of the meat slaughtered in this slaughterhouse and which served Hemsworth Urban, Hemsworth Rural, and Royston Urban District areas was inspected by me, but later arrangements were made so that the Meat Inspector from the Hemsworth Rural District Council took alternative weeks in the work of Meat Inspection.

During the period under review I have paid 449 visits to the slaughterhouse and the total of beasts etc. slaughtered there up to and including the 31st, December, 1940, are as follows :-

Beasts.....	2493
Sheep.....	11861
Pigs.....	2131
Calves.....	19

As a result of Meat Inspection the following meat was condemned as unfit for food of man.

Whole Beasts.....	20
Sheep.....	13
Pigs.....	4
Calves.....	2
Beasts' Livers.....	360
Sheeps' Livers.....	49
Pigs' Livers.....	20
Beasts' Heads.....	30
Pigs' Heads.....	32

In addition to which I have condemned 146 lbs of Beef, 13½ lbs of Bacon and 116 tins of Pineapple.

This meat which is now condemned at the Government controlled slaughterhouse is not destroyed by your officials but is taken away by arrangements with the Ministry of Food to a central depot for destruction.

Nuisances.

The total number of inspections made for nuisances in the district was 425, which resulted in 181 nuisances being found. These were satisfactorily dealt with by the service of Informal Notice

Nuisance and defects in connection with the Council's Housing Estates are invariably reported by the Rent Collectors, and as such are not included in this report.

I herewith append a list of inspections and visits made during the year.

To Infectious Disease.....	217
" Inspection of Nuisance.....	425
" Slaughterhouse.....	449
" Working and.....	293
" Houses inspected.....	256
" Miscellaneous Matters.....	244
" Scavenging and Salvage.....	178
" Meat and Food Inspections other than Slaughterhouses.....	15
" Common Lodging Houses.....	28
" Farms.....	15
" Factories.....	2
" Rubbish Tip.....	10
" Offensive Trades.....	6
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In concluding I wish to thank the members of the Council and my fellow officials for the assistance which they have given to me in carrying out my duties during the year.

I am, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

SYDNEY FOX, C.R.S.I., M.I.S.A.,

